

Mr. Chairman & Members of the Committee my name is Penny Redli, the Chair person of the Cultural & Aesthetics Advisory Committee.

On behalf of the committee, I appreciate your consideration of our recommendations for the use of the Cultural Trust Grant Funds to support the various cultural endeavors undertaken within our great State.

I am here today to inform you about the great work that is done within the committee to get to this point.

The dedicated members of the committee complete an extensive review process out of which we have determined the recommendations that are brought forth to you today.

The committee is comprised of 16 individuals that are from all over the state.

There are 8 members representing the Arts: Helen "Gus" Guthrie Miller a board member of the Butte Center for the Performing Arts, Laura McCann an Art Teacher from Harlem, Anne Grant a visual arts specialist from East Glacier, Anne Morand the Executive Director of the CM Russell Museum in Great Falls, Mark Ratledge a photographer and writer from Missoula, Barbara Griffin a former board member of the Billings Symphony and the MT Association of Symphony Orchestras, Ralph Paulus, of Choteau, a former Executive Director for the Performing Arts League and former board member of the MT Performing Arts Consortium, and Surale Phillips an Arts Administrator and Consultant from Three Forks.

The 8 members representing History are: Lon Johnson, Division of Interpretation and Cultural Resources for Glacier National Park of West Glacier, Jon Axline the Historian for the MT Department of Transportation of Helena, Scott Carpenter an archaeologist from Bozeman, Sean Chandler an American Studies Instructor at Fort Belknap College, Kathy Doeden a historic preservationist in Miles City, Kenneth Robison of Great Falls is a historian at the Overholser Historical Research Center at the Montana Ag Museum in Fort Benton, Lawrence Pettit a Humanities Montana board member from Helena and myself. I am the Executive Director of the Museum of the Beartooths in Columbus.

Members each contribute a variety of strengths to the process. Some of us specialize in reviewing the financial reports presented by each grantee, while others pay attention to details such as the Letters of support or other written content. All of us understand the seriousness of our task and enjoy learning more about each of the applicants and their respective projects. The 16 committee members spent a total of 606 hours reviewing the 104 applications, an average of over 37 hours per member. Some members spend nearly 60 hours reviewing the applications.

The fundable grant categories are Specials Projects, Special Projects Requesting \$4,500 or Less, Operational Support and Capital Expenditures.

The 8 applicants for Special Projects Requesting \$4,500 or Less were all funded at some level. This category requires the organization be all-volunteer or employ no more than one half-time person and most of these organizations have little grant writing experience. Each of these grant dollars must be matched with one dollar in cash or in-kind goods and services.

There are 36 applications in the Special Projects category of which 29 have been recommended to receive some funding. The Special Projects category is the grant category for specific activities, services or events of limited duration, or the expansion of ongoing programs, adding or increasing staff time, to

meet defined needs or generate new sources of revenue and again each grant dollar must be matched with one dollar in cash or in-kind goods and services.

Out of the 49 operating grants 47 were partially funded—THOUGH ONLY RECOMMENDED FOR 51% OF THE AMOUNT THEY REQUESTED. Operating support is the most difficult type of funding to get anywhere else and is actually virtually unheard of. This category is not intended to reduce the applicant's fund-raising efforts or support program expansion. As with the previous categories, each grant dollar must be matched with one dollar in cash or in-kind goods and services.

Of the 11 Capital Expenditure Grants 8 were funded partially. This grant category is for an addition to a collection or for acquisition of works of art, artifacts or historical documents, historic preservation, purchase of equipment, or construction or renovation of cultural facilities. These applicants have a different list of items needed to complete the grant application. Each grant dollar must be matched with three dollars in cash or in-kind goods and services.

A detailed list of criteria is followed to determine if an application is eligible for funding in any category. Applicants must have a need identified and how do they plan to meet those needs: what is the importance to the local community/organization or state?; does the applicant have the abilities to accomplish the request within the budget specified and during the grant period?; does the overall quality, content and presentation of the grant application and support materials provide the committee with confidence that this grantee can attain the goals within the grant period?; is the application creative, innovative, practical or beneficial?; is the applicant making efforts to provide accessibility including publicity and ADA?; if the application is affecting prehistoric or historic properties have they contacted the State Historic Preservation Office to be evaluated?; is there a level of local support demonstrated?; how well does the applicant contribute or improve the cultural development of the service area?; is the application cost-effective?; how will funds be spent?; is the cost reasonable and realistic?; is there a mix of revenue sources?; do they have local governmental support either cash or in-kind?; can the project stimulate other sources of funding?; and what is the probability the application will be accomplished within budget and with available resources? Each applicant must have a governing sponsor to provide the accounting and financial over-site once the funds are granted to each successful organization. All applications must be associated with a cultural and aesthetic project for example: visual performing, literary, media arts, folk arts, history, archaeology, archives, collections, research, historic preservation or the construction or renovation of cultural facilities.

Each potential applicant is provided with a grant application explaining what is needed to complete the grant with the instructions, appropriate forms, budget samples as well as a checklist of "What to Mail" to make sure the applicant has prepared and completed all necessary items to better their chance of receiving funding. From my history of applying for the Cultural Trust grant in comparison to other granting agencies, I can attest that this is a very simple, easily spelled out process and the MT Arts Council is very willing to assist anyone interested in applying.

After the application deadline of August 1st, the Arts Council is busy organizing all applications together with the review forms and other information needed to prepare them to mail to each of the 16 committee members. Each committee member is appointed as a "lead" reader for about 7 grants. The committee members usually have about 4 weeks to review and rank each of the grants. Each member then sends their recommendations back to the Arts Council for which they prepare for the two day meeting in Helena, which the 16 committee members attend. At this meeting the committee is divided into two sub-committees for which they go over each of the grants in which they served as the lead

reader. The grants are presented and funding is recommended or not recommended based on the quality and completeness of the applications and the amount of funding available, as is typical, this time there was over \$3 in requests for every dollar available. More discussion usually follows. This is and has been a very consistent, sometimes daunting, and tedious process that each member takes very seriously.

This year is my fifth grant cycle on the committee and I am now the only veteran member. In my tenure on the committee, this was the worst year for grant application errors and omissions. Many grant applications were incomplete and done hastily. Many committee members were very frustrated that many applicants did not submit some of the most important application material. Some failed to send a budget, budget detail, or even a narrative. The lack of content within certain grants made the process more difficult. This year there were 12 zero-funded grants. Most of which were due to an incomplete application.

You will find the reasons why we do or do not recommend funding for certain applications in the box of committee recommendations included for each grant. All decisions made by our committee were based on the criteria of this grant program and how that application met those criteria and how it competitively stacked up against other applications.

As the committee chair, I thank you for the time you have allowed me to present the 2010-2011 Montana Cultural Trust Grant recommendations. It has been a pleasure to work with the very diligent C&A committee to come to this point and I look forward to assisting you today and at your executive action.

Thank you.